

REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 30-32 have been amended; claims 1-32 are pending in the present application, and claims 1-29 having been withdrawn from consideration. These amendments do not add prohibited new matter and are fully supported by the specification. Support for the amendments to the claims may be found, for example, on page 46, line 11, through page 48, line 21, of the present specification and in Figures 25-27. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the outstanding Office Action are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

The Office Action rejects claims 30-32 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Koenig (U.S. Patent No. 7,167,855, hereinafter “KOENIG”).

Initially, Applicants note that the claims recite (using claim 30 as a non-limiting example):

An information supply system comprising a server connected to a network and a terminal device which requests said server for information over said network,  
wherein said server transmits ranked information using numeric values of specified information and a weighting entered from said terminal device to said terminal device according to a request from said terminal device, said information supply system comprising:

means for displaying information having the highest score of said ranked information and other information of said ranked information on a display screen of said terminal device, said displayed information being graphically arranged to be centered by said information having the highest score,

means for displaying a difference between scores of said information having the highest score and other information of said ranked information on the display screen of said terminal device as a distance from the center of the screen, and

means for displaying information while changing information located on the center and said distance from the center on the screen in relation with a change of

said weighting transmitted from said terminal device.

According to a non-limiting embodiment of the claimed invention, information with the highest score and other information (other lower ranked information) of ranked information are graphically arranged on the display screen so that the information with the highest score is located on the center of the display screen and the other information is located around center with a distance which reflects the score difference from the highest score information. Furthermore, when the weighting transmitted from terminal device is changed interactively, the information on the center of the display screen is changed (if the ranking is modified), and the distance from the center to other information is also changed (as shown in Figs. 25 and 27). Thus, the claimed invention is capable of displaying the information which reflects the user's intuitive preference, thereby allowing users to collect information customized by individual conditions in a rather short time for comparison and selection.

In contrast, KOENIG is directed to an expert matching system, in which experts and customers may schedule appointments, and take surveys and courses (*see* KOENIG, Abstract). For example, an expert may indicate his field of expertise and times of availability (*see* KOENIG, Abstract). Customers may, in turn, indicate the type of expert they would like to consult, and their times of availability. In response, the system will match experts with customers (KOENIG, Abstract).

In one embodiment of KOENIG, a provider identifies himself as an expert, selects categories and subcategories of subject matter for which he has expertise, and ranks these categories according to his level of expertise (*i.e.*, from 1 to 5) (KOENIG, col. 20, lines 32-49). Then, a consumer may

select desired categories of subject matter, the desired level of expertise, and the priority level (or importance) of each subcategory (KOENIG, col. 20, lines 32-49). The system then matches experts to consumers by ranking the matches found in the database (KOENIG, col. 21, lines 16-17). The closeness of matches is calculated via a formula that takes into account the level of expertise requested, the priority of the expertise requested, and the level of expertise requested, and weights the average of the difference between provider and requester level (KOENIG, col. 21, lines 23-37). The priority assigned by the requester to each entry is the weighting coefficient in this formula. The system in KOENIG then displays a summary of ranked results, which the user may then select (KOENIG, col. 21, lines 41-44, and 50-53).

The Examiner asserts that the ranking system of KOENIG is related to the claimed ranked information and weighting process. The Examiner also appears to suggest that the ranked results relate to the claimed “means for displaying information having the highest score” and the claimed “means for displaying the difference between scores of said information having the highest score.”

However, KOENIG does not disclose or render obvious, *inter alia*, the claimed “means for displaying information *while changing information located on the center and said distance from the center on the screen* in relation with a change of said weighting transmitted from said terminal device,” as recited in exemplary claim 30. Furthermore, KOENING fails to disclose or render obvious “said displayed information being *graphically* arranged to be centered by said information having the highest score” and claimed “means for displaying a difference between scores of said information having the highest score and other information *of said ranked information* on the display screen of said terminal device as a distance from the center on the screen,” as recited in the claims (emphasis added). KOENING merely teaches displaying a summary list of matches and a ranking of

those matches via web page (KOENIG, col. 21, lines 41-44, 50-53).

Absent a disclosure in a single reference of each and every element recited in a claim, a *prima facie* case of anticipation cannot be made under 35 U.S.C. § 102. Since the applied reference fails to disclose each and every element recited in independent claims 30-32, these claims are not anticipated thereby. Therefore, Applicants submit that KOENIG does not teach each and every element of the claimed invention (as required under 35 U.S.C. § 102), and respectfully request withdrawal of the outstanding rejections.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that Examiner's objection and rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 should be withdrawn. Entry and consideration of the present amendment, reconsideration of the outstanding Office Action, and allowance of the present application and all of the claims therein are respectfully requested.

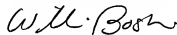
Applicants note that this amendment is being made to advance prosecution of the application to allowance, and should not be considered as surrendering equivalents of the territory between the claims prior to the present amendment and the amended claims. Further, no acquiescence as to the propriety of the Examiner's rejection is made by the present amendment. All other amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability (*e.g.*, for cosmetic and/or clarification purposes and/or to render the claim terminology consistent throughout the claims), and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Authorization is hereby provided to charge any fee to maintain the pendency of the application, including any extension of time and/or claim fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

If the Examiner has any questions or comments regarding this response, or the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

February 25, 2008  
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Respectfully submitted,  
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